STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
SIDDHARTA

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVERNING DAILY

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MYSURU Saturday 11th April 2020
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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

Lockdown tightened

Krishnaraja, Devaraja and Narasimharaja sub-divisions on high alert; barricades laid

Mysuru, Apr. 11 (RK&BCT)- If all roads leading to Padarayanapura and Bapujinagar, off Mysuru Road in Bengaluru have been sealed off and asbestos sheets have been used as barricades to prevent entry and exit of people, things are no different in Mysuru where the lockdown norms have been tightened with barricades from this morning.

With spiralling of COVID-19 positive cases in Mysuru, the City Police and the District Administration are not taking any chances and have barricaded more densely populated areas in city. The tightening of lockdown at the micro-level is part of the administration's containment plan to check the spread of the deadly virus.

Police are ensuring that people do not move from one area to another in search of essential commodities, milk and medicines and they were asked to buy the essentials that are available in a particular area without going anywhere. Many were forcibly asked to return home by the lathi-wielding Policemen.

(See LOCKDOWN on page 5)

Five more test COVID-19 positive; Mysuru total 47

All cases are contacts of P88 from Nanjangud-based Jubilant Generics

Mysuru, Apr. 11 (Agencies)- Five more positive cases have been reported in Mysuru taking the total number of positive cases to 47. The total number of COVID-19 positive patients in Karnataka today has gone up to 214. Six deaths have been reported so far.

P209 is a 46-year-old male and a contact of P88, an employee of Nanjangud-based Jubilant Generics, P210 is a 43-year-old male, also a contact of P88, the pharma company employee.

P-212 is 27-year-old male and he too is a contact of P88 of Jubilant Generics, P213, 31-year-old male and P214, a 26-year-old male. Again, both are the contact of P88 of the pharma company. All the positive patients have been admitted at the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road.

India is under the biggest lockdown in its history with all 1.3 billion people asked to stay home for three weeks in view of the Coronavirus disease.

Meanwhile, Mumbai could be staring at an emergency arising out of closed hospitals and out-of-action nurses. Yesterday, another 19 health workers tested positive from hospitals, taking the count of affected medical staff to nearly 100 in Mumbai, likely to be the highest in India. Alarmed by the spread of infection among frontline workers, private hospitals have been asked to urgently provide safety kits, additional remuneration and transport.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Editor-in-Chief K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.
Mysuru, Saturday 11th April 2020

Former MP demands payment of backlog wages to MNREGA labourers

Mysuru, Apr.11 (RKB&DM)- Alleging that the Karnataka Government had failed to pay wages for MNREGA Scheme labourers in the State for two months, former Chamarajanagar Congress MP R. Dhruvanarayan has urged the Government to pay backlog wages to them at the earliest.

Speaking to presspersons at Jaladarshini Guest House here yesterday, Dhruvanarayan said that the State must utilise the Rs.61,500 crore funds set aside by the Union Government for MNREGA Scheme, to come to the rescue of labourers and workers who are deprived of their wages.

Maintaining that the labour class was facing untold hardship because of the COVID-19 lockdown, he said most of the working class was struggling to get food for survival in these difficult times and the Government should take serious note of this.

Asking the Karnataka Government to follow Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh which have used the funds for sanitising villages with Sodium Hypochlorite disinfectant and also to distribute ration kits, hand sanitisers, face-masks etc. to villagers, the former MP wanted the Government to come up with an action plan for the welfare of the working class, which is reeling under job loss and loss of income.

Dhruvanarayan also urged the Centre to release money to the State Disaster Management Fund, out of the money aggregated from the two-year suspension of MPLAD Funds, with Karnataka having as many as 28 Lok Sabha MPs and many Rajya Sabha MPs.

District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar and leader H.A. Venkatesh were present.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

All countries have tried to enforce border controls to stop the virus, which ironically also demonstrated their futility. Global co-operation and multinational governance can be jettisoned only at the world's peril as we know now. A more serious threat to humanity, climate change, has always appeared distant, but this one is urgent. Hence, the question is not whether we have more or less globalisation but about its character. It is now a profiteering expedition of soulless greed. Can there be a new globalisation where humanity and environment take precedence?

— Varghese K. George in The Hindu

NEWS SPARKLERS

Unlucky man quarantined three times in a row!

Jining: A luckless Chinese man who reportedly spent almost two months in his home after being quarantined three times in a row became a trending topic on Chinese social media.

Xiong, from the city of Jining, in East China's Shandong Province, spent almost the whole month of February and half of March cooped up in his home in an unlucky triple quarantine that the media hilariously dubbed "buy one, get two free". The first time Xiong was confined to his apartment was when Jining went into lockdown on Feb. 8, two days after returning from the Philippines. He was forbidden from leaving his home for 14 days, which was tough, but not as tough as spending 50 days inside.

"After my quarantine period ended I decided to go out for a stroll. I stepped out the door and there was my neighbor who had just come back from South Korea. He came straight toward me followed by a health worker. He put me back in here (inside his home) for another 14 days. I didn't dare leave," Xiong said.

Company creates awesome portraits of pets as Lords

Los Angeles: If you're looking to have some goofy fun while quarantined in your own home, how about investing in a high quality portrait of your pet as a pompous royal?

Enter Crown & Paw, a company dedicated to helping pet owners honor their bundles of joy by creating hilarious digital portraits of them as generals, princes, or ladies, whatever title the client desires. The company curates a collection of authentic 19th century portraits and rare Renaissance era oil paintings, and combine them with pet portraits to hilarious effect. Seriously, just look at the example above.

HEALTH CAPSULE by Bron Smith

What's healthy about Brazil nuts?

Brazil nuts are highly nutritious and are nature's highest source of Selenium. Careful! More than five nuts a day provides too much Selenium. They are also loaded with healthy fats, as well as proteins, amino acids, magnesium, thiamine and phosphorus.

**Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

New District Ministers for Mysuru, Mandya

Bengaluru, Apr.11- Amid COVID-19 lockdown, the State Government on Thursday effected some changes in District in-charge Ministers, according to which Co-operation Minister and Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somashekar has been appointed as Mysuru District Minister, replacing V. Somanna, who however, continues as Kodagu District Minister.

Somanna was appointed as In-charge Minister for two districts — Mysuru and Kodagu — in August last year. Now Somashekar has replaced Somanna as Mysuru District in-charge Minister.

Among other changes, Horticulture Minister K.C. Narayanagowda has been named as the new Mandya District in-charge Minister, replacing Revenue Minister R. Ashoka, who however continues as Bengaluru Rural District In-charge Minister.

Somashekar *Narayanagowda*

Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar continues to be in charge of Chamarajanagar District, while Deputy Chief-Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan continues as Ramanagara District in-charge Minister.

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has kept for himself in-charge of Bengaluru Urban District.

With the naming of new District in-charge Ministers, all except three Ministers in the Yediyurappa Cabinet — Ramesh Jarkiholi, Gopalaiah and Shrimanth Patil — have got responsibilities as District Ministers.

Really...?

- *The many well-researched health benefits of green tea make it a great beverage to include in your diet for the prevention and treatment of cancer, heart problems, cardiovascular diseases, high cholesterol levels, rheumatoid arthritis, infection, tooth decay and many others.*
- *Green tea contains an antioxidant called epigallocatechin-3 gallate (EGCG), which offers chemopreventive properties.*
- *Green tea is consumed by mouth to improve thinking and mental alertness. It is also consumed for depression, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), inflammatory bowel disease, and weight loss. It also treats stomach disorders, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, and osteoporosis (bone loss).*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A guy gets pulled over by a cop. The cop asks, *"You're speeding! Didn't you see the speed limit sign?"* ***The man replied,*** *"Yeah I saw the speed limit sign, but I didn't see you!!"*

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 76.17
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 94.87
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.74
1 Euro	= Rs. 83.30

VOICE OF THE READER

Collect House Tax at citizens' doorstep: Suggestion to MCC

Sir,

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) may put to use its staff to better use during this Corona outbreak and benefit both the citizens of Mysuru and the MCC itself by conducting a drive of collecting house tax at the doorstep of the house owners.

This eliminates the usual queues in MCC Offices at this time of Corona scare and also helps the citizens who are locked in their houses. For the time being, an amount equivalent to last year's tax may be collected and any difference by the change in rules may be collected in due course. This arrangement will also boost the income of MCC and facilitate continuation of routine works without any hassle.

The modalities may be worked out like accepting only cheques as the mode of payment as almost all citizens now invariably have bank accounts, ensuring total hygiene at both ends. The MCC staff can drop in the application forms of the house tax at each house, give the owners a day to complete filling of the forms, then set a date to come back and collect the filled in form and cheque for the respective tax amount.

The staff can then give a receipt acknowledging the payment on the spot. They can wear masks and also ask the individual owners to cover their mouth and nose and ask them to come out to their gates and present the filled in form and cheque.

Earlier the action, better it is for the MCC and the citizens alike. Hope the MCC considers this suggestion and acts upon it at the earliest.

—V. Mahesha
on e-mail

Chamarajapuram
10.4.2020

Obituary

Somanna

Mysuru, Apr. 11- Somanna (50), Mysuru Railway Goods Shed Lorry Driver and a resident of Tilak Nagar in city, passed away on Thursday night following a cardiac arrest.

He leaves behind his wife Hemavathi, daughters Shashikala and Dhanalakshmi and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Jodi Thenginamara Burial Grounds in Bannimantap here yesterday.

M.C. Sannappa

M.C. Sannappa (70), a resident of Bannimantap in city, passed away last evening.

He leaves behind two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Jodi Thenginamara Burial Grounds in Bannimantap here this morning, according to a family sources.

Artiste Mujeeb Ahmed no more

Mujeeb Ahmed

Mysuru, Apr. 11- Artiste Mujeeb Ahmed passed away on Apr.6. Mujeeb Ahmed was born in Mysuru and lived here for 60 years. He started learning Banjo (Bulbul Tara) and Harmonium from his father late Noor Ahmed when he was 7 years old.

Mujeeb Ahmed, along with his close friend, one of the Kannada and Urdu singers Jahihulla Khan, son of late Shoukath Ali Khan of Bilugunda village, Kodagu district, learnt Hindustani Music from Ustad Basheer Masthan of Mysuru, and together performed several programmes across India. He was a close friend of A.R. Rahaman, renowned composer.

Mujeeb Ahmed passed the exam with Zahirulla Khan and Zareena Banu in All India Radio, Mysuru. He has given several programmes with many renowned artistes which were telecast in Doordarshan, Bengaluru and several Mehfil Sama Khani (qawwali) programmes to the general public.

Mujeeb Ahmed leaves behind his wife Nikhath Sulthana, a daughter and two sons. Mukram Pasha, a resident of Bengaluru, is one of the close disciple of Mujeeb Ahmed and he rendered his services to his Guru Mujeeb Ahmed till his cremation.

Condoled: Jahidulla Khan, Secretary, Fankaar Welfare Trust of India, Salma Siddiqua, have condoled the death of Mujeeb Ahmed.

Why not have 'Exam from Home' ask PUC students

Urge Education Minister to conduct 'English' Exam

Pooja *Eva Nagdelin* *Tejas* *Dhanush*

Mysuru, Apr. 11 (RKB&AM)- "Please make provision for conducting the last paper, English, of the PU Board and help us prepare for CET, NET and other exams," urged the II PUC students to Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar.

With nationwide lockdown, Colleges and Schools across the country remain shut. With most of the exams scheduled in March and April, the worst affected from the lockdown were SSLC and PU students. The II PUC exams, scheduled to be held from Mar. 4 to Mar. 23, went on as per schedule until the lockdown was announced. The only paper left to be written was English, on Mar. 23. But, by then the Government announced lockdown till Mar. 31 which was then extended till Apr. 14.

Around 29,000 students were set to appear for the last paper, English, in Mysuru district. Their request to the Education Minister now, is to set up 'Exam Centres' with all safety measures in place, ordering students to wear masks, use hand sanitisers and then take up the exam.

Students Speak

S. Pooja, a student of Sadvidya PU College and **Eva Nagdelin,** a student of St. Anne's College, say, "Just like work from home for the IT folk, why can't the Board conduct exams from home for the PU students?" Pooja also opined that the last paper could have been held on Mar. 23 as per schedule, ensuring that the students used mask and hand sanitisers, since there were not many cases in India then still. This would have helped us clear our minds and start preparing for CET, NET and other exams. Now, we are in a dilemma."

Eva Nagdelin in her plea to the Education Minister said, "We will not cheat on our exams if we are allowed to write it from home. Once the last exam is over, we can dedicate all our time to prepare for CET and other exams. Please heed to our request Suresh Kumar Sir."

B.S. Tejas and **B.R. Dhanush,** students of Marimallappa PU College, opined, "English was the last exam scheduled and prior to that, we had a four-day gap. We had prepared well, but now with everything postponed, we are not able to either enjoy our vacation amidst the lockdown nor prepare further for CET and NET exams. It is a very tense situation with everything so uncertain. We request the Board to conduct the English exam at the Centres. Just like hall tickets are compulsory, the Board should also ensure that all the students wear mask compulsorily and instead of 25-30 students in each room, they can seat around 10 students in each room and ensure social distancing. For those in rural areas, the exams could be held at the nearest Exam Centre."

Parents' Plight

"The PU Board should announce the date for English exam and ask all the students to compulsorily wear masks and use hand sanitisers. Since there is no public transport available, the parents should drop their respective wards to the Exam Centre, wait till the examination is over and then take them back home."

—Manjula Srinath Baratikke, Ganesh Nagar

"With the Corona scare, the decision to postpone the exam was correct but with just one paper left to go, the children's misery is unfathomable. Our children are a worried lot since they have to also prepare for CET, NET and other entrance exams. And they still have one paper left of their II PU examinations too. Hoping for all the issues to be resolved soon."

—Srinivas Nayak, Kyathamaranahalli

Postponed SSLC exam to be held in May: Minister

Suresh Kumar

Bengaluru, Apr.11- Even as suspense continues over the dates of the postponed English paper of II PUC and SSLC exams in the wake of nationwide lockdown, Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar said that the exams are most likely to take place in May after the lockdown ends.

Speaking to presspersons here yesterday, Suresh Kumar said that the Government will announce fresh schedule of the exams once the lockdown gets over and the announcement will be made one-week before the start of the SSLC exam and the date of II PU English paper.

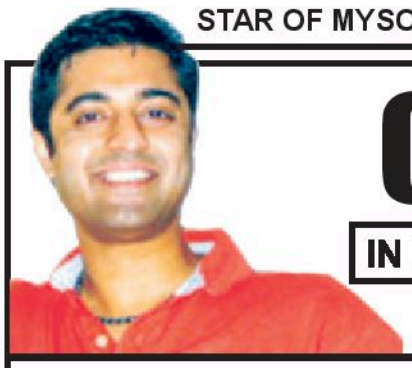
It may be mentioned here that the II PUC English paper which was to take place on Mar.23 and the SSLC exam which was scheduled to commence from Mar.27, were postponed due to COVID-19 lockdown.

Veerashaiva-Lingayat community to perform 'Ishta Linga Puja' on April 13

Mysuru, Apr. 11- Mysuru and Chamarajanagar Districts Veerashaiva Matadhipatis Ghosti has appealed to its Veerashaiva-Lingayat community members to perform 'Ishta Linga Puja' on April 13 at 7 pm at their homes, for the welfare of the world in the wake of Coronavirus.

According to the press release from the Secretary of the Ghosti Sarpabhooshan Swamiji, the puja shall be conducted simultaneously in Karnataka and other States.

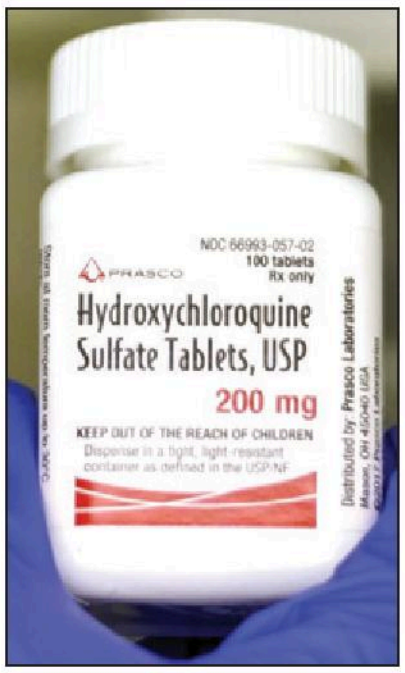
All the religious heads should perform the puja along with their disciples at the Mutt and the devotees should perform the rituals along with their family members in their house.



Cure is in Nature

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna



Hydroxychloroquine tablets

Quinaquina tree

Quinaquina bark

Nature creates, nature cures, nature destroys. We better save nature if we want to save ourselves. Because nearly half of all human pharmaceuticals are originally derived from natural sources and we humans by systematically destroying more and more species of plants and animals are also destroying nature's medicine cabinet.

Since the past few weeks, a drug, 'Hydroxychloroquine' (HCQ), a milder and safer version of 'Chloroquine', the infamous anti-Malarial drug, has been in the news. This HCQ could have almost ended both diplomacy and 'hug-plomacy' between the US and India and its leaders. But more importantly the core of this medicine which has been saving human lives and which could save us again comes from an average stout tree from South America.

In the 17th century, Spanish explorers noticed that indigenous Peruvians used *'Quinaquina'* tree bark to treat fever and it worked very well. So they brought it to Europe and in time the European scientists extracted the chemical compound from its bark called *'Quinine'* which could be used to treat Malaria without having to chew the tree bark.

Their guinea pigs for drug trials were the British Army in India. Just like how today the US is ordering hundreds of tons of HCQ, back then so did the British. And just like how HCQ is now being prescribed as the first-line of defence for medical personnel, in the sense that it will not prevent COVID-19 infection but lessens the severity, back then all British soldiers, even the healthy ones, were instructed to take regular dosages of *Quinine*.

It seems for most problems created by nature, the cure lies within nature itself. "Modern medicine" as such, could at best go back to about 400 years, but humans have been around for over 2,00,000 years. So our ancestors have taken their time observing animal behaviour, eaten various roots, chewed on many a bark to figure out how to stay alive from the bites, injuries and viruses that nature constantly introduces to the planet, as if it is a population control mechanism.

Because of this ability to observe, learn and indulge in trial and error, today even our ancient hunting techniques have given us medicines.

The South American tribes use poison *curare* to wet the tips of blowgun darts to render prey immobile. This plant-based poison today is appropriated as a muscle relaxant for humans and has made possible techniques such as open-heart surgery.

Similarly, a unique chemical produced by the *Bintangor* tree deep in the rainforests of Borneo, called *Calanolide,* has been isolated and is touted to inhibit the spread of HIV virus. Even coral reefs have been a source of possible medicine from aliments such as arthritis to even production of sunscreen.

The most famous medication, Aspirin is made from *salicylic* acid, a compound found in the bark and leaves of the *Willow* tree. In fact the Greek Physician and father of modern medicine, Hippocrates, in whose name all doctors take their oath, referred to the use of *salicylic* tea to reduce fever. This was around 400 BC.

Even the popular cancer-fighting drug Taxol, is isolated from the Pacific *Yew* tree. Among anti-cancer drugs approved between 1940-2002, approximately 54% were derived from natural products or were inspired from botanical knowledge.

Nature is vast and complicated, so to test every species for its medicinal value takes time. A lot of time. That is why we need to respect old traditions. And more importantly old languages. Because most of the old world medicines are passed by word of mouth and not in the form of written text.

But while we need to respect and explore traditional medicine, we cannot accept all its recommendations blindly. What works for one problem cannot work for another problem. But they do hold secrets that modern medicine and technology is yet to unlock.

If not for the 'plant-knowledge' of tribal people of Peru, we would not have had HCQ today. If not for the extraction of the compound *Quinine* from the bark of *Quinaquina* tree it could not have been mass produced. So between the synergy of old world knowledge and new technology lies the hope to cure the ills of mankind in the 21st century.

For now, while we have barely scratched the surface of nature's medicine cabinet, we continue to destroy it thereby depriving ourselves of potential medicines. At the rate we are destroying nature, according to one report, we are losing one important drug every two years !

As Kate Wong, a scientific writer reported, "Estimates place the number of species screened for their medicinal properties at a mere 1 percent, yet each year more than 30 million acres of tropical forests are lost. Such large-scale destruction of our planet's complex ecosystems will no doubt come back to haunt us if for no other reason than the fact that with every species lost, Mother Nature is taking potentially life-saving chemical formulas to the grave."

May be, it is time pharmaceutical companies and we the people, while pampering doctors and revering them, should also pamper Mother Nature and revere her by protecting her. May be, nature has pampered us enough, it is time we reciprocated, else…

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

Modi wears home-made face mask, discusses lockdown situation with CMs

I am available 24x7 for any assistance, PM tells State Heads

Prime Minister Narendra Modi holding a video conference with Chief Ministers (including B.S. Yediyurappa) of all the States in the country this morning to discuss Coronavirus lockdown situation.

New Delhi, Apr. 11 (Agencies)- Wearing a home-made cloth face mask, Prime Minister Narendra Modi this morning discussed Coronavirus lockdown situation in the country with Chief Ministers of all the States via video conferencing.

PM Modi imposed a 21-day lockdown on Mar. 24 asking people to remain indoors informing them that it is the only way the virus can be contained from spreading.

With lockdown in its third and final week when the nation is expecting that it will be lifted, the Prime Minister discussed the situation with the Chief Ministers as many of them have been suggesting that the lockdown shouldn't be lifted looking the current situation in the country as Coronavirus cases are on the rise.

In fact, on Wednesday, the Prime Minister suggested the Opposition Leader in the all-party meeting that in the current scenario, it wouldn't be possible to lift the lockdown.

During the meeting, PM Modi informed Chief Ministers of all the States that he will be available 24x7 for any assistance and help to all the Ministers, Chief Ministers and officials. He asked CMs to suggest on the further roadmap to deal with Coronavirus crisis in the country. A presentation on the current scenario was also showed to the CMs during the meeting.

The Central Government is understood to have also obtained views on the issue from all the relevant agencies and stakeholders involved in the efforts to contain the spread of the pandemic.

This is for the second time the Prime Minister is interacting with the CMs via video link after the lockdown was imposed. During his April 2 interaction with Chief Ministers, Modi had pitched for a "staggered" exit from the ongoing lockdown.

Distribution of Ration Kits launched in Chamaraja Constituency

Mysuru, Apr. 11 (PM&DM)- District Minister S.T. Somashekar and Agriculture Minister B.C. Patil jointly launched distribution of free ration and essential items kits, initiated by Chamaraja MLA L. Nagendra for the poor and the needy of his constituency, at Jaladarshini Guest House here this morning.

Speaking after the launch, District Minister Somashekar said that he would like to thank the media for their co-operation during this difficult time, when the entire State is under COVID-19 lockdown.

Complimenting MLA Nagendra for the novel initiative, the Minister said that following directions from the Chief Minister, all 2.5 lakh Ration Card applicants of the district will be distributed ration for two-months.

Pointing out that the OTP system has been relaxed at Fair Price Shops, he said that the Ration buyers can put their signature and get their quota of ration for two-months.

Warning Fair Price Shop owners of collecting money for issuing ration tokens, he said that the licence of such shops found collecting money will be suspended. He further said that he will be visiting Nanjangud, the epi-centre of COVID-19 in the district later today.

MLA Nagendra said that 8,000 Ration Kits are ready for distribution among the poor and the needy, identified by the party workers in his constituency.

Each kit will have 5kg of rice,1kg edible oil,1kg each of soji, salt and tur dal, 500gm of horse gram, 2 soaps and a packet of detergent powder, he said and added that the kit covers are printed with Coronavirus precautionary and safety measures.

Nagendra further said that apart from 8,000 kits, 4,000 more kits will be distributed in the coming days if found necessary.

MP Pratap Simha, City BJP President T.S. Srivatsa, several BJP Corporators and leaders were present.

Lockdown tightened across city

(Continued from page 1)

Though the Police had barricaded some of the roads and even as uniformed Police personnel deployed at each point sweating it out in the April sun, residents continue to flout rules.

Despite the Police rejecting the residents' requests to go out, they manage to enter the roads through lanes and by-lanes. As such, there was normal movement of people and an open disobedience of lockdown rules. Even seizure of vehicles has not helped.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda has directed all the subdivisions of Krishnaraja, Devaraja and Narasimharaja to block the movement of people and make use of barricades even in small lanes and narrow stretches.

Barricades were laid even in areas like Hebbal, Sharadadevinagar, Kuvempunagar, Bogadi, Vidyaranyapuram, Vivekanandanagar, Vijayanagar and Jayalakshmipuram.

These barricades have been tied together and Policemen are posted. Some of the places were barricaded in such a way that only two and four-wheelers could barely pass with entry of heavy vehicles barred.

Residents in Eranagere, area close to St. Philomena's Church, have themselves barricaded the lanes with bamboo poles, plastic chairs, flower pots and cement blocks, to restrict entry of outsiders to the area, in an attempt to contain pandemic.

The entire Mahadevapura-Udayagiri Road has been blocked for vehicular traffic except for roads leading to medical shops, grocery and vegetable outlets. Stringent measures are in place at densely populated areas of Udayagiri, Shantinagar, Ghousianagar, Rajivnagar, Kyathamaranahalli, Raghavendranagar, Gayathripuram, Shaktinagar, Gandhinagar, Jalpuri, Jyothinagar, Shivaji Road, Azeez Sait Nagar, Mandi Mohalla and N.R. Mohalla.

While the main roads have been barricaded, even some of the connecting bylanes have been sealed. Interestingly, in many localities, to prevent vehicles zipping past and violating the lockdown rules, residents themselves have barricaded the lanes with bamboo poles, flower pots and cement blocks.

Police sources told *Star of Mysore* that till yesterday, officers in the ACP (Assistant Commissioner of Police) level were managing the lockdown but today DCP Prakash Gowda has taken charge and is in the field to effectively implement the lockdown measures.

Apart from these measures, two drones have been deployed to warn violators through recorded audio message and also photographing the vehicles that are unnecessarily moving from one place to another. Also, the hi-tech Mobile Command Centre has been placed at strategic places to capture the photographs of violating vehicles.

Innovation Challenge

'The Armageddon' online COVID-19 project for students of Grades 6-9

Mysuru, Apr. 11- Excel Public School, Koorgalli, has launched an online COVID-19 project titled, **'The Armageddon.'** The aim of the project is to leverage technology to engage students of Grades 6-9 in contextual, meaningful and thought-provoking activities during this prolonged summer vacation.

This offers students opportunities to access authentic and curated content to learn about COVID-19. Besides, it also enables students to collaborate with each other within the safe confines of their homes as the learning is facilitated through an online tool.

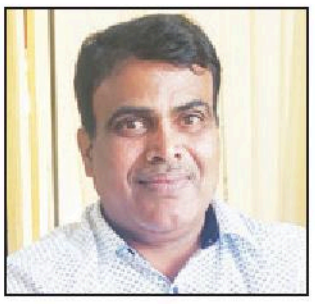
The project explores many facets of the COVID-19 crisis such as epidemiology, economic, social and political impacts. It also introduces students to 21st century skills and enables them to use these skills to solve challenges related to this crisis.

There are eleven challenges that cater to varied interests and abilities. While the project is designed for self-learning, mentors will be available to guide students through the project, should such a need arise.

The output of the challenges will be evaluated by a team of experts and prizes awarded to the best teams.

To participate, teams should register at *www.excelpublicschool.com;* Team size should not be less than two members and more than five. For details, e-mail to: *stenysimon2@gmail.com* or *ilavenil@gmail.com*

ATI Mysuru plays critical role in combating COVID-19



By Dr. Ashok Sanganal,
Head, Centre for Disaster Management, ATI, Mysuru

The Centre for Disaster Management, Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Mysuru, in collaboration with Revenue Department (Disaster Management) and Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, has been actively involved in helping the State Government and District Administrations in preparing State and District Disaster Management (DM) Plans.

Specific mention can be made to the State plans prepared for the years 2019-20 and the draft State DM plan 2020-21 prepared aligning with national plan 2019.

ATI Mysuru conducted a series of consultative workshops at the district and regional levels inviting officers and experts of different departments, NGOs and scientific organisations to prepare State and District DM plans.

Disaster Management Act 2005

The Disaster Management Act 2005 marks the institutionalisation of Disaster Management in India giving emphasis on proactive response vis-à-vis traditionally followed relief-centric approach stressing on pre-disaster activities such as prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

Planning for biological disasters covering Ebola, Cholera, COVID-19 or any such disasters have been comprehensively taken into account. Keeping in view the severity and complexity of such biological disasters, the ATI has carried out an exercise to identify the responsibility matrix for different agencies and departments both at the State and district levels for effective preparedness for early warnings and forecasting, risk assessment, structural and non-structural mitigation, awareness, training and capacity development of agencies, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation (building back better) have been clearly identified and defined.

The State plan provides hazard profile, preparedness plan, institutional framework, communication and response plan, social inclusiveness, main streaming Disaster Risk Reduction, responsibility framework for different agencies and departments defining clearly the tasks to be performed for preparedness, mitigation, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction for disasters namely biological disasters, meteorological disasters, geological disasters, chemical disasters and other accident-related disasters.

Aligning with the Karnataka State Disaster Management Plan, all districts were helped to prepare their own individual plans. In the management of COVID-19, both the State and district plans have provided guidance to the authorities for managing this unexpected emergent and unknown disaster. The effect of the disaster (COVID-19) has been immediate and widespread. The effect may challenge or overwhelm the capacity of a community or society to cope using the available resources.

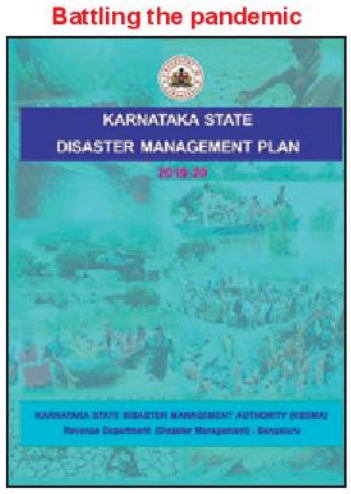
The severity of COVID-19 made the Government of India implement almost all the provisions of the national plan and DM Act 2005. The Central Government has advised all the State governments to implement their respective State DM plans and the provisions of DM Act 2005. The State Government has accordingly implemented almost all the provisions including the ones relating to containing the violations and offenses during COVID-19 management.

Centre for Disaster Management, Administrative Training Institute, Mysuru

Sustained efforts by Centre

Since the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency of international concern, Government of India and almost all the State Governments have issued a series of orders, advisories and instructions to their departments and agencies quoting the provisions of the Act for effective preparedness and response to contain the spread of COVID-19. The sustained efforts of Government of India from the day one (7th January 2020) of announcement of SARS COV2 as the causative agent for the disease, consultative meetings, advisories and instructions on hospital preparedness, thermal screening, entry surveillance were immediately taken up with the help of State Governments.

Battling the pandemic



The Centre for Disaster Management, ATI, during the year 2019-20 alone trained over 9,000 officials from Government departments and local bodies spread across the State on different themes of disaster management. This skilled manpower is available to the district administrations for involving them in management of disasters. During this lockdown period to maintain the social distancing norms and to avoid mass gathering, the Centre has planned online training programmes on COVID-19 preparedness for the officials of local bodies in the affected districts.

The State Disaster Management Plans 2019-20 and 2020-21 and district plans will be a guiding tool and give direction to all the departments, district administrations, public and private agencies, industries and community for better preparedness, prevention, mitigation, response and reconstruction activities. These plans will guide all concerned functionaries and agencies to take timely action so that the impact of any disaster is reduced to the minimum.

Coronavirus: 'Ready to volunteer'

Says IAS Officer Kannan Gopinathan who quit over J&K, refusing to join duty

New Delhi, Apr. 11- Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer Kannan Gopinathan yesterday refused to comply to the Centre's order to "immediately join duty" amid the Coronavirus pandemic saying he is ready to help people as a common citizen during the crisis but not as an IAS officer.

Kannan Gopinathan

The Government has asked the 33-year-old bureaucrat to join duty on the ground that his resignation has not been accepted yet. Gopinathan termed this as an act of harassment by the Government and refused to join duty.

The letter, sent to Gopinathan by the Government on the direction of the Administration of Daman, Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli, said a resignation becomes effective when it is accepted and a Government Servant is relieved of his duty. "You were directed to continue to attend your assigned duties, but till date you have not reported for duties of this UT administration," the letter said.

"Further, coronavirus has been declared as a pandemic and NDMA, under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, has directed all Ministries /Departments of Government of India, state governments and state authority to take measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country," it said.

On Twitter, Gopinathan shared a photo of the Government order asking him to join duty followed by his official response. "It has been almost 8 months now since my resignation. Only thing the Govt knows is harassment. Of people & of officers. I know that they want to harass me further. But still, I offer to volunteer for the govt in these difficult times. But not rejoining IAS," he tweeted on Thursday night. The bureaucrat had quit the elite service last year to protest what he claimed was the denial of Fundamental Rights to lakhs of people in Jammu and Kashmir. "It's not like my resignation will cause even a flutter, but one has one's own conscience to answer to," he had said then.

Gopinathan, a Secretary of key Departments in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, was instrumental in transforming a loss-making Government electricity distribution firm into a profit-making one.

An IAS officer for seven years, Gopinathan resigned on August 21 last year.

A week after his resignation, the Centre asked him to resume duties, a directive he ignored. This is the second time he has been asked to join duty.

New Mysuru District Minister feted

New Mysuru District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar was felicitated by BJP State Co-Spokesperson R. Raghu Kautilya, State Secretary M. Rajendra, District President Mahendra, Corporater Satish, Jayaprakash and others, in city this morning.

Good Friday observed with no gathering

There was no Holy Mass at City Churches as part of Good Friday yesterday as Churches remained closed following the nationwide lockdown. However, devotees were seen holding prayer services at their respective houses. Even Bishop of Mysuru Most Rev. Dr. K.A. William held prayers at Bishop House in city with no general public allowed. On the occasion, Bishop called upon the devotees to hold prayer service at their houses by playing last year's video on YouTube. Picture right shows a Christian family during their Good Friday prayers at their residence in Eranagere.

Will be part of Corona Warriors' services: New District Minister

District Minister S.T. Somashekar at a meeting with officials at the Government Guest House in city yesterday.

Mysuru, Apr. 11 (SBD&DM)- New District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar said that he will be very much part of the services of Corona Warriors in the battle against COVID-19.

Speaking to press persons after holding a meeting with officials at the Government Guest House here yesterday, Somashekar said that he has received inputs from officials regarding COVID-19 status in Mysuru and the measures taken to stop the spread of the deadly virus.

Stating that he will hold a meeting with MLAs, MPs, MLCs, Mayor, ZP President and other people representatives on Saturday, he said that he will be visiting Mysuru APMC, Nanjangud and other spots and engage with the officials in battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

Noting that Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has appointed him as Mysuru District Minister out of confidence, Somashekar promised that he will work in such a manner as to bring honour to the CM.

Lauding the Deputy Commissioner, the Police and other officials engaged in the battle against the deadly Coronavirus, he said that he has directed the authorities to take all necessary measures for stopping the people from unnecessarily coming on to the streets in violation of lockdown regulations.

Somashekar further said that all District Ministers have favoured extension of lockdown covering the entire State and the Chief Minister will take a decision on the extension of the lockdown after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video-conference with Chief Ministers of all States on Saturday.

Visits Chamundi Hill: Somashekar, who arrived in city a day after he was named as the new District Minister, visited Chamundi Hill Temple and offered prayers to the deity.

He later called on Chamarajanagar MP V. Srinivas Prasad at his residence in Jayalakshmipuram, during which Agriculture Minister B.C. Patil, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha and Nanjangud MLA B. Harshavardhan were present.

Government to deposit Rs.1,000 in women Jan Dhan accounts

New Delhi, Apr. 11- Urging people not to believe rumours, the Finance Ministry on Thursday said Rs. 500 has been deposited in each Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts held by women for April and Rs. 1,000 more will be given over the next two months in equal instalments.

Meanwhile, State-owned State Bank of India (SBI), which has the highest number of PMJDY accounts, asked the beneficiaries not to believe in rumours that the money will be taken away by the Government if not withdrawn amid large numbers of people flocking Banks.

As a result of this, there are rush at Bank branches leading to violation of social distancing guidelines to check the spread of Coronavirus.

The Department of Financial Services (DFS), in the Finance Ministry, also asked the beneficiaries not to believe in rumours and withdraw the amount from ATM, Customer Service Point or Banks as per their convenience.

The SBI has further said, "We would like to assure our customers that the funds in your account will not be blocked or returned to the Government."

Auto drivers express concern over their livelihood

Mysuru, Apr. 11 (PM&DM)- With the entire country under COVID-19 lockdown, auto drivers, who are a vital cog in the movement of people, are now a worried lot as everything has come to a standstill following the lockdown.

The auto drivers, who depend on passengers for their livelihood, are now looking at the skies wondering when the lockdown ends and normal life returns in the city. The auto drivers, who were already facing threat from Ola and Uber online Taxi services, are now forced to cope with lockdown regulations, which has completely shut down their services.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, some auto drivers said that this hitherto unseen crisis has thrown their life and livelihood out of gear. Maintaining that they were staring at a very uncertain future with no other alternative means of livelihood, they said they were now facing the biggest challenge of their life.

K. Narayan, a 40-year-old auto driver of Gokulam, said that the earth has come crumbling down for him as he has lost his livelihood following the lockdown.

Claiming that he was finding extremely difficult to make ends meet for his family comprising his wife, a 10-year-old son and an aged mother, he said that taking care of his family was the immediate challenge before him in the absence of earnings.

Krishna, an auto driver of the auto stand on Thyagaraja Road, said that all the eight auto drivers of the stand were struggling to make ends meet due to loss of income.

Pointing out that allowing the autos to provide emergency transport services on hire will bring some relief to the drivers, he urged the local authorities to consider their pleas in this regard.

Swami, a Goods auto driver from Doddamaragowdanahalli in the taluk, said that the lockdown had snatched away their earnings and with no other alternative means of livelihood, the auto drivers were finding it extremely difficult to lead life.

Wondering whether the lockdown would end on Apr.14, he said that he was seriously thinking on how to lead life if the lockdown extends beyond that.

Another driver, **Shivaprasad Raju,** said that although the Government was providing them rice under Anna Bhagya scheme, they were facing other financial challenges such as payment of house rent, utility bills, education of children and other household expenses.

He wanted the Government to come to the rescue of auto drivers who were now facing severe problems, with no other sources of income.

Jubilant's first, Mysuru's second patient cured of Coronavirus

Mysuru, Apr. 11 (RK&BCT)- Amidst spiralling cases of COVID-19 in Mysuru, here is a silver lining as the second positive patient in Mysuru (Patient 52 or P52), has been successfully treated and discharged.

He was the first employee who tested positive for COVID-19 from Jubilant Generics, a pharmaceutical firm in Nanjangud that is in the thick of a controversy, reporting maximum positive cases in Mysuru.

It may be mentioned here that even the very first positive case that was reported in Mysuru was cured recently. He had come from Dubai to Bengaluru via Goa and had voluntarily admitted to K.R. Hospital after he showed symptoms during transit.

Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) Dean and Director C.P. Nanjaraj confirmed that the 35-year-old employee of the pharmaceutical firm has tested negative and was discharged as he was healthy. The youth tested positive for COVID-19 on Mar. 26, even though he didn't have any travel history and had baffled the authorities. His was the first secondary infection case, perhaps in Karnataka.

After being discharged yesterday, the patient lauded the Government, District Administration and doctors.

In a letter to the District Administration, he said that he had fever and approached a local clinic and was admitted to a private hospital on Mar. 21. He said he was brought to K.R. Hospital and was shifted to COVID Hospital on Mar. 30 where he was treated for 14 days. He has appealed to the people to listen to the Government authorities to combat Coronavirus.

Out of the 42 persons, who have tested positive in Mysuru, 31 are related, either directly or indirectly, to Jubilant Generics.

Even P52's three family members are infected and are under treatment at the designated COVID-19 Hospital.

Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar has stated that P52 has been discharged on Friday, as per the protocol.

"He was the first positive from Jubilant Generics plant. He is the second patient to be discharged in Mysuru. I thank all doctors, paramedics and supporting staff of COVID Hospital who ensured his recovery," the DC has stated.

MP defends pharma company

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha has come out in support of Jubilant Generics Limited, Nanjangud, where more than 20 employees have tested positive for Coronavirus and over 1,400 quarantined. The company has been shut now.

Speaking to reporters at Jaladarshini Guest House yesterday, he denied that the firm had a role in allegedly putting the campus and employees at risk when it imported raw materials consignment from China. "Who knew that virus could spread from a container," he questioned.

"Virus spreading through the consignment that was imported from China has not been proved scientifically, yet. We are awaiting the lab reports and it is expected to come in two to three days from Pune," he said and added that it was unfair to blame the company without any proof.

He further said that it is not easy to lodge complaint against the firm without any substantiation. "In this hour of crisis, workers' welfare is of utmost priority."

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COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	3,449
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1,831
Persons isolated in hospital	:	41
Persons completed 14-day isolation	:	1,577
Total samples tested	:	569
Samples found negative	:	527
Total active positive cases	:	46
Persons cured / discharged	:	2
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	214
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	6
Total active positive cases in India	:	6,565
Persons cured / discharged	:	643
Death toll so far in India	:	239

(NOTE: FIGURES TILL 2 PM)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

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- Aushad+ The Chemist, Dhanvantri Road, Mysuru 24 HRS. M: 63602-29490 Email: aushadthechemist@gmail.com
- Aushad+ The Pharmacy, opp. Suyog Hospital, Dattagalli M: 97396-29806. Email: aushad2018@gmail.com
- K R Medicals, Sayyaji Rao Road, Mysuru M: 63604-81412. Email: krm.aushad@gmail.com
- Shri Krishna Medicals, Sayyaji Rao Road, Mysuru M: 98451-14456. Email: skm.aushad@gmail.com
- Drug Stores, Kumbar Koppal, Mysuru Email: aushad2004@gmail.com
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